Help for StreamStats Batch Processor

The batch processing tool will accept up to 200 points on a state by state basis. At this point, the program is not totally reliable, meaning that you may need to make a run, save the points out that computed, and rerun the remaining points.

With this disclaimer, if you still want to try it, see:

http://streamstatsags.cr.usgs.gov/ss_bp/

The input shapefile is a point file of pour points. It is best to first download the stream grids at:

http://streamstatsags.cr.usgs.gov/WebServices/StreamGrids/directoryBrowsing.asp

and be sure that your points fall near (generally no more than a couple grid cells from) the streams in this grid. If a state stream grid is missing, let us know by emailing streamstats@usgs.gov.

The "Local ID Field" should be a field in the input shapefile that contains a unique identifier for the site/delineation. The contents of this field are carried over into the resulting datasets, and may be used to relate back to the input shapefile.

We have been having a lot of problems with the batch processor. When it computes things, it seems to do them right, but for reasons we have yet to figure out, it often drops out some results. Also, sometimes it returns partial results with either null or zero values for some parameters, but valid results for others. If you re-submit sites that did not give complete results, you can generally get complete results, although it often takes several iterations. It also can be difficult to distinguish true zeros from dropped results for parameters that can actually be zero. The records near the end of the result datasets tend to be the ones with partial results.

At this time, our only option with the batch processor is to submit jobs, inspect the results, select the sites that did not get complete results, write those out to a new shapefile, and submit that one. Once you get all the results you need, you can use the ArcToolbox Append tool to append the results to a single output database. We have gotten very accustomed to doing this, and it works OK, but sometimes takes quite a few iterations. This may be pretty tedious, but that's what we have to work with right now.

Also, please do not submit multiple jobs at once. Please wait till one job finishes before submitting another. On weekends or overnight, it is OK to submit a couple jobs at one time, though. If you need to do more than this, please email us to discuss options.

For a long time we felt like we couldn't trust the results, but we've tested enough that we are convinced the results are reliable, if you get them. The only thing that still is really difficult is distinguishing true zero values from dropped results. When in doubt, remove the results and run the site again.

The other thing you will need to be aware of is the snapping to stream grid cells. You will need to check carefully to see that the basins delineated for each site are actually the intended basins. If you get a tiny watershed that does not look right, for example if it is a single grid cell, you may be able to move your point a little to fall on the stream grid.

Finally, although we try very hard to get it right, the software and data do contain errors. It is important to remember that the user bears responsibility for checking the watershed delineations and basin characteristic computations. If you ever see results that appear to be in error or do not make sense, please report it to us so we can check and see if something needs to be fixed.